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December 1, 2009

Dear Members of the House Tax Policy Committee:

As the Vice President of O & I Transport, Inc. and a member of the Transportation Club of Detroit, I am writing to express my support for House Bill 4481 and request that the House of Representatives pass it immediately. This bill will help to ensure that transportation jobs remain in our state at a time when we can least afford to lose another Michigan worker.

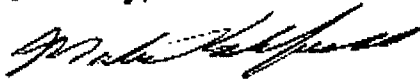
House Bill 4481 provides tax relief to transportation general contractors who subcontract freight hauling projects. Currently, if a general contractor in the trucking industry subcontracts a project, he is required to pay the gross receipts tax on the entire revenue amount for that project and cannot claim his payment to the subcontractor as a cost. The subcontractor also has to pay tax on the amount he receives from the general contractor, which leads to the double taxation of the same revenue. This is best illustrated with an example: O & I Transport, Inc. receives a \$400 order for transporting steel products. We hire an independent truck to ship the steel products for \$300. The independent trucking company receives \$300 and O & I Transport Inc. will keep the remaining \$100 for itself as income. But, under the MBT, O & I Transport has to report the full \$400 as income and cannot report the \$300 as a cost – therefore we are taxed on the full \$400. Additionally, the independent truck owner is also taxed on the \$300 as their income.

For my company, instead of a 290% tax increase under the MBT, the passage of HB 4481 will result in a 15% tax increase which is more manageable. As you can see, I am not seeking to completely eliminate my tax liability, I am simply requesting that the tax increase not put me out of business. Unfortunately, I have already had to take measures including salary reductions and layoffs because of the negative impact the MBT has had on my company. That is why immediate passage of this bill is critical because the next step is to permanently release workers and then to close my doors.

Additionally, it is important to note that this type of taxation problem has been previously recognized and other industries have received the general contractor tax relief that I am requesting. For instance, general contractors in the construction field are exempt from this tax. I think it is also worth mentioning that numerous tax credits, even refundable credits, have been enacted in an effort to foster industries that do not currently exist in this state. O & I Transport, Inc. has been a tax paying entity in Michigan for 21 years. We want to stay in Michigan and we hope that the legislature will work with us so we can remain in our home state.

Thank you for time and attention to this extremely important matter. As a job provider in Michigan, I want to stay here and passage of HB 4481 will make the difference and help to save my company.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Michael Schofield", written in a cursive style.

Michael Schofield
Vice President
O & I Transport, Inc.